

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Prime Minister of Bangladesh

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence and National Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, which falls on 26th March 2013, His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.—MNA

President U Thein Sein receives Belgian delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March — President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a 12-member delegation led by Minister-President Mr.Kris Peeters of the Government of Flanders of Belgium at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Maung, U Ohn Myint, U Nyan Tun Aung and Dr Kan Zaw, and officials.

They held talks on cooperation with Belgian companies in river conservation, electricity production and converting wind energy into electricity in Myanmar, Belgian investments

in establishment of manufacturing factories for producing value-added products from teak, rubber and oil palm, commitment of Belgian companies in mining and industries, IT services and food processing industries, purchase of machinery for milk and dairy products, cooperation in livestock breeding, energy, electricity, fisheries, agriculture and hotels and tourism sectors, opening of factories and industries for ensuring job creation, invitation of foreign investments in Myanmar where capital, technology and human resources are needed and matters to be able to facilitate investment in Myanmar.

MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and Minister-President Mr.Kris Peeters of the Government of Flanders of Belgium exchange gifts.—MNA

Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS discussed



Chairmen of Health Promotion Committee and Social Development Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw Dr Kyaw Myint and U Maung Maung Swe holding talks with UNICEF Resident Representative Mr. Bertrand Bainvel.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March — Chairmen of Health Promotion Committee and Social Development Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw Dr Kyaw Myint and

U Maung Maung Swe held talks with UNICEF Resident Representative Mr. Bertrand Bainvel at Building (I-1) in Hluttaw Complex, here, this morning.

The meeting focused on assistance to vaccination for children, ensuring availability of safe water, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS and free education for children. —MNA

Wellwishers donate cash, relief items to victims in Meiktila

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—Meiktila of Mandalay Region where riots had occurred recently returned to normalcy. Local people are engaged in their regular works daily. Downtown Meiktila is hustling and bustling with buyers and sellers at the market, and banks are crowded with customers.

As of 23 March morning, wellwishers, companies and social organizations donated cash and kind for the victims. Up to this afternoon, they have donated 178,066 packets of instant noodle, 114,496 bottles of purified drinking water, 44,639 packets of snacks, 1,796 bottles of soft drinks, 3,000 sachets of rehydrated salt, 10,000 sachets of coffee mix, 2,271 bags of rice, 11,220 viss of edible oil, 33,900 eggs, three packages of textile, 19 bales of clothes, one kit of medicine, 10 rain coats, 4,000 pairs of slipper, 2,000 mats,

3,000 viss of gram, 3,000 boxes of canned fish and K 5,350,000.

At Communications Staff Quarter in Meiktila from this morning to afternoon, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (Central) donated K 3 million, Meiktila District WAO K 50,000, Meiktila District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee K 50,000, Meiktila Township MCWA K 20,000, Meiktila Township WAO K 10,000, Mandalay Jade Trading 2,800 packets of instant noodle, 1,500 bottles of purified drinking water and 3,120 packets of snacks, Kyaukse family 384 bottles of purified drinking water, 528 packets of snacks, one bale of clothes, one medicine kit, Aung Myin Thu Group of Companies 2,340 bottles of drinking water, 90 bags of rice, Ayeya Myitta Social Association 300

packets of instant noodle, 180 bottles of drinking water and 80 bags of rice, Kyinlon Myanmar 9,000 packets of instant noodle, 15,276 bottles of drinking water and 300 bags of rice, Edin Group of Companies 80 bags of rice, KTM purified drinking water 30,000 bottles of drinking water, Political Inmates Assistance Group 1,650 packets of instant noodle, 200 packets of snacks, 576 bottles of soft drink and 88 pieces of clothes, Tawwin Foundation 150 bags of rice, Myodaw Biscuit 5,148 packets of snacks, 100 bags of rice, 3,000 viss of groundnut oil and 3,000 canned fish.

Those wishing to donate cash and kind to victims in person may contact the donation centre at Communications Staff Quarter in Meiktila and then donate cash and kind to the victims.—MNA

Significant day temperatures (25-3-2013)

Chauk	42°C
Thayawady	41°C
Bawlake	41°C

LOCAL NEWS

Dredging of Thayawboke creek to benefit local farmers in Kyauktan Township



KYAUKTAN, 25 March — Dredging of 6.7 miles long Thayawboke creek for proper flow of water is being carried out in Kyauktan Township of Yangon South District.

As farmlands of Sittabinkwin, Tumyaungkwin, Khanaungkwin, Sinmakawkin and ward-3 of Tada are adjacent to

the disappearing creek, rebuilding of the creek will be of great benefit to 434 farmers and 6234 acres of arable farmland. It is planned to rebuild the creek to be 20 feet wide and six feet deep one. Upon completion, the creek will prevent more than 6000 acres of cultivated farmland from flooding.

Kyemon

Street brawl leaves one stabbed fatally in Shwe Paukkan Industrial Zone

YANGON, 25 March — A street fighting broke out at Shwe Paukkan Industrial Zone on North Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region on 14 March, leaving a young man stabbed with a screwdriver.

The fist fight between a group of seven young men including Aung Naing Htay, 16, of U Ponnya 3rd street in ward-17 and Nay Lin (a) Dah Pein occurred at about 8 pm in front of ward administrator's office

on Kanaung 13th street in the zone. In the street brawl, Nay Lin (a) Dah Pein was fatally stabbed in the left part of the body upper the waist with a screwdriver. He was taken to North Okkalapa Hospital where he was under special care due to his critical condition.

Shew Paukkan police station filed a lawsuit against Aung Naing Htay and others and investigation is ongoing.

Kyemon

School building in Indaw Township goes up in flames

INDAW, 25 March — A fire broke out at ward-6 of Meza model village in Indaw Township of Katha District in Sagaing Region at about 1.45 pm on 23 March.

The fire accident happened to a RC two-storey school building. According to an official, the fire was due to a short circuit of overheated electric wire.

Fire crews accompanied by two fire trucks of Indaw and Bahmauk fire stations and two water bowzers of a company and township development affairs department managed to

bring the fire under control in cooperation with local

people and put out the fire at about 3.30 pm. — Kyemon



National race young women get vocational training in Haka

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March — The closing ceremony of basic domestic training course No (51/2012) and advanced tailoring course No (34/2012), organized by Women's Vocational Training School, took place at the school in Haka on 22 March.

In his address, Chin State Chief Minister U

Hong Ngai elaborated the purpose of conducting the courses, saying that vocation training courses will enable national race young women to do their own businesses in their own region.

Next, officials concerned presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

MNA



Photo shows an activity to observe World Water Day 2013, delivering bottles of potable water to passengers on a ferry boat in Dala Township on 22 March. — KYEMON

Kanthayar Lake: An area of scenic beauty in Hpa-an

HPA-AN, 25 March — Kanthayar Lake in Hpa-an of Kayin State is a public area of scenic beauty for recreation. The wooden bridge was upgraded to concrete one with steel handrail. With an increase in arrivals of tourists, it has become a scenically attractive area

offering a view deck to enjoy the beauty of the scenery around Kanthayar lake and magnificence of the Mt. Zwekabin scenery which is unique to Hpa-an.

Globetrotters to Hpa-an visit Shwe Yin Hmyaw pagoda where they make a stop to admire

the natural beauty of the River Thanlwin. Then they proceed to Mt Zwekabin. Other places of interest in Hpa-an are Bayint Nyi Cave, Kawt-koon Cave, Sadan Cave, Yathae Pyan Cave, Kawt-ka-thaung Cave and Kyaukalat pagoda.

Kyemon



Mass participation needed in a drive to improve road safety on expressway

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March — Aimed at contributing

great benefits to national economy in future, the government poured a lot of money in construction of Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay expressway, ensuring swift flow of commodities from one region to another, smooth and speedy public transportation and regional development. Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road section was put into service in March 2009. During the three-year construction period when the use of road was allowed with certain restrictions, there had been 240 road accidents, killing 108 and wounding 505. After Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay road section was inaugurated on 23 December 2011, 39 were killed and 113 injured in 50 road accidents.

Most of the road accidents were due to reckless drivers who failed to follow traffic rules. Especially, drowsy driving was a major cause of fatal accidents. Now it is seen that signposts giving warning against drowsy driving have been set up along the road. Traffic rules enforcement is being carried out by expressway police corps for safety of road users. Setting up of written warnings and signposts, installation of solar lamps, road maintenance and posting guards to prevent cattle crossing over the road are being undertaken to reduce road accidents. Local people, in their part, are to take part in the drive for reduction of traffic accidents and durability of the expressway. — Kyemon

Two vehicles collide head-on in Shwedaung Township

SHWEDAUNG, 25 March — A Pyay-Gyobinkau light truck carrying passengers driven by Tun Khin, 53, collided head-on with a delivery van driven by Kyaw Kyaw, 30, at mile post No (168/3) on Yangon-Pyay road near Gytokon village in Shwedaung Township of Bago Region on 19 March.

The head-on collision between the passenger light truck and the van delivering CP chicken and eggs happened when the van driving from Pyay to Yangon crashed into the stationary light truck which passengers got on and off at the top of the village. The car crash left 14 people wounded. The 10 injured were admitted to Shwedaung hospital and four at Pyay hospital.

Shwedaung police station opened a case about the car crash. — Kyemon

Smuggled herd of cattle seized

PINLEBU, 25 March — Police arrested a smuggler together with a herd of cattle at Kwamtaung village in Pinlebu Township of Sagaing Region on 17 March.

Police members led by Police Captain Myint Wai of Pinlebu Township Police Station arrested U Maung Nu, 48, and seized 32 head of cattle together with him while making a patrol near Kwamtaung and Doneton villages.

Pinlebu Township Police Station filed a lawsuit against U Maung Nu for cattle smuggling.

Kyemon

WORLD

Britain's PM Cameron unveils sweeping immigration crackdown

LONDON, 25 March—Prime Minister David Cameron will unveil a sweeping immigration crackdown on Monday aimed at discouraging migrants from Romania and Bulgaria from moving to Britain when EU restrictions on their right to travel and work there expire next year.

Under his plans, access to Britain's National Health Service will be curbed, new migrants will have to wait up to five years for social housing, fines for employers who hire illegal workers will be doubled, and landlords who let to illegal immigrants could face fines too.

The lifting of European Union freedom of movement restrictions on Romanians and Bulgarians

has triggered warnings in the right-leaning press of "hordes" of welfare-hungry migrants descending on Britain at a time when the economy is stagnant and public resources are being squeezed.

Cameron's initiative reflects a change in the political mainstream after years of politicians shying away from the issue. All three main parties now talk tough on immigration after polls showed it had become one of voters' main worries ahead of a 2015 election and a once derided anti-immigration party surged in the polls.

In a speech that may stir controversy in Romania and Bulgaria, Cameron will say he wants to stop Britain's



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron leaves number 10 Downing Street, in central London on 20 March, 2013.—REUTERS

welfare system being "a soft touch" for migrants, saying that access to core public services is something newcomers should earn rather than automatically receive.

"Net migration needs

to come down radically from hundreds of thousands a year to just tens of thousands," he will say, outlining measures that will apply to other EU nationals too.

Reuters

Israel fires into Syria after Golan attack on troops



An Israeli army armoured vehicle is seen on the Israeli Syrian border in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on 24 March, 2013.—REUTERS

JERUSALEM, 25 March—Israel said it fired into Syria on Sunday and destroyed a machinegun position in the Golan Heights from where shots had been fired at Is-

raeli soldiers in a further spillover of the Syrian civil war along a tense front.

It was not immediately clear whether Israel held Syrian troops or re-

bels responsible for what a spokesman for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said had been a deliberate attack on Israeli patrols in the occupied territory.

Israeli forces "destroyed a Syrian machinegun nest that fired twice in the last 24 hours on Israeli patrols operating to safeguard the border," the spokesman, Ofir Gendelman, said on his Twitter page.

Shells have fallen several times inside Israeli-controlled territory during Syria's civil war. Some of the incidents have drawn Israeli return fire.

Syria's southern prov-

inces bordering Jordan and Israel have become an increasingly significant battleground as the capital Damascus—in Syria's south—comes into play and President Bashar al-Assad's forces fight hard to prevent rebel advances.

The Israeli military said one of its vehicles was hit late on Saturday by shooting from across the Israeli-Syrian ceasefire line on the Golan Heights, but no one was hurt.

Israeli military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Lerner, said, "Our understanding is that it wasn't stray fire."

Reuters

Afghanistan's Karzai heads to Qatar to discuss peace with Taliban

KABUL, 25 March—Afghan President Hamid Karzai will travel to Qatar within days to discuss peace negotiations with the Taliban, the Afghan Foreign Ministry said on Sunday, as efforts intensify to find a negotiated solution to the twelve year war.

Karzai's trip to Qatar would represent the first time the Afghan president has discussed the Taliban peace process in Qatar, and comes after years of stalled discussions with the United States, Pakistan and the Taliban.

The announcement was made only hours after another thorny issue in the US-Afghan relationship — the transfer to Afghan control of the last group of prisoners at the Bagram military complex held by US forces — appeared to be resolved. The Pentagon announced on Saturday that a deal had

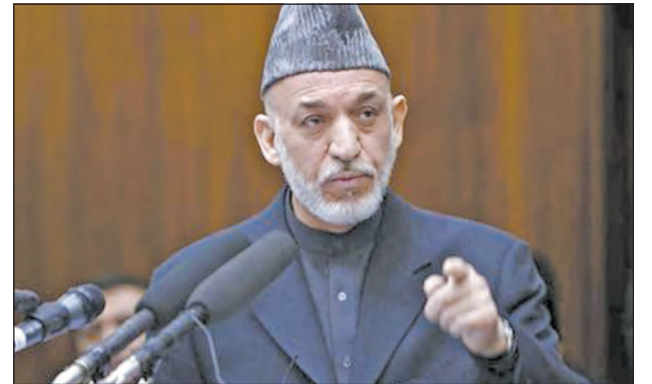
been clinched.

Karzai's Qatar trip was announced by Foreign Ministry spokesman Janan Mosazai. "President Karzai will discuss the peace process and the opening of a (Taliban) office for the purposes of conducting negotiations with Afghanistan," he said. Karzai was expected to travel to Qatar within a week, a senior Afghan official speaking on condition of anonymity told Reuters.

The United States has said it would support setting up an office in the Gulf state where peace talks between the Taliban and Afghanistan could take place.

"We welcome and fully support President Karzai's visit to Qatar as a sign of improved relations between the two US allies," said Caitlin Hayden, a spokeswoman for the White House National Security Council.

Reuters



Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai speaks during the opening ceremony of the third year of the Afghanistan parliament in Kabul on 6 March, 2013.

REUTERS

Macedonia local polls end trouble-free, in boost for its EU bid

SKOPJE, 25 March—Macedonia held a trouble-free municipal election on Sunday despite recent ethnic and political unrest, in a boost for the Balkan country's hopes to start European Union entry talks later this year.

In the past decade, various ballots in Macedonia have been marred by accusations of fraud and sporadic violence, mostly clashes between majority Macedonians and ethnic Albanians.

"We've probably had the best and cleanest elections so far. We should all be proud because Macedonia showed its place is in the European Union," Interior Minister Gordana Jankulovska told reporters in Skopje after the voting ended.

Sunday's vote was closely watched by 400 in-



A Macedonian woman prepares to cast her ballot papers at a polling station in Skopje on 24 March, 2013.

REUTERS

ternational observers, as the West was keen to avoid any fresh instability in the impoverished country of 2 million people.

Early results will be announced during the night, while official results will be available sometime next week.

Macedonia's bid to join the EU and NATO has been held hostage for years by a long-running dispute with neighbouring Greece over the country's name, which Greece wants changed because it is also the name of a northern Greek province.

Reuters

Kerry in Baghdad for talks with Iraqi leaders

BAGHDAD, 25 March—US Secretary of State John Kerry on Sunday arrived in Baghdad on unannounced visit for talks with Iraqi leaders over regional issues, the Iraqi government and media reports said.

A statement issued by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's office said that Maliki received Kerry and the two sides discussed bilateral relations as well as the regional issues of common interest, particularly the Syrian issue.

"The views of both sides were close and they stressed on the need to find a political solution to the situation in Syria to spare further tragedies to its people," the statement said without giving further details.

"There is significant correlation between the problems in the region, and any state cannot isolate it-

self from what is happening around it because of the overlapping of problems in the region," the statement added.

According to media reports, Kerry's visit was to urge the Iraqi leaders to ban Iranian flights over the Iraqi territory carrying arms and fighters for the Syrian government.

The United States frequently accused Iraq of turning a blind eye to the Iranian flights to Syria, which Iran insists only carry humanitarian aid.

Media reports said that the Iranian flights over Iraq to Syria are "close to daily", and that Iraq, which has vowed to inspect the flights, has only checked two planes.

The reports also alleged that Kerry was to tell Maliki that Iraq cannot be part of the political discus-

sions over Syria's future until it halts the Iranian shipments to Syria.

Kerry is expected to meet with the parliament Speaker Osama al-Nujaifi, a Sunni, whose community has been protesting Maliki's Shiite-led government for about three months for being marginalized and discriminated against.

Kerry also plans to speak by telephone with head of the Kurdish regional government Massoud Barzani in Arbil, some 400 km north of Baghdad, to encourage the Kurds to engage in political talks with the central government to resolve their pending issues.

Kerry flew to Iraq from the Jordanian capital of Amman as he was accompanying US President Barack Obama's tour in the region.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Barnes & Noble giving away poor-selling Simple Touch e-readers

NEW YORK, 25 March—Barnes & Noble Inc said on Friday it would give away a free Nook Simple Touch e-reader to any customer who buys its high-definition Nook HD+ tablet next week, asign it may still be grappling with excess inventory of the unpopular e-reader.

The top US bookstore chain last month reported poor holiday quarter results for its Nook business. Overall revenue fell 26 percent as it sold fewer devices, losing ground to products like Apple Inc's iPad and Amazon.com Inc's Kindle, and the Nook business' loss doubled.



A woman looks in from a window panel of a Barnes and Noble store in New York on 24 Oct, 2012.

REUTERS

The offer is available from 24 March to 30 March. The Simple Touch e-reader, while well reviewed, failed to catch on with customers since its launch in 2011, as digital bookbuyers have migrated toward tablets, which now offer better reading functions. Returns of unsold Simple Touch devices have repeatedly pinched Barnes & Noble's results.

Last year, Barnes & Noble carved out Nook and its college bookstore business into a new unit called Nook Media. That has attracted investments from Microsoft Corp and Pearson LLC, but Barnes & Noble still owns 78 percent. Barnes & Noble shares fell 2 percent to \$16.54 in mid-afternoon trading.—Reuters

SaferCar app launched to help US consumers make informed buying decisions

SAN FRANCISCO, 25 March—US road safety authorities have announced the launch of a new mobile application designed to give consumers real-time smartphone access to vehicle safety information.

"The new SaferCar app literally puts the latest in vehicle safety information directly in the hands of consumers so they can make the appropriate purchasing and other decisions for themselves and their families," David Strickland, administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), said in a statement.

The NHTSA, a division of the US Department of Transportation (DOT), modelled the new app on its popular auto safety website, SaferCar.gov. The app will give users up-to-date road

safety announcements and alerts and let them see vehicle crash test ratings, receive safety and recall information, file complaints and find assistance installing car seats for children.

Third-party developers will also have access to the application's data, which will allow them to integrate the information into existing apps and websites.

"Millions of consumers already rely on these data to inform their purchasing decisions on popular automobile review sites; now they'll be able to access these data in real-time," the NHTSA said.

At present, the app is only available for Apple customers through the iTunes Store. The NHTSA said it is currently developing a version of the app for Android devices as well.

PTI

Netizens touched by illustrator's "love"

BEIJING, 25 March—Sketches by a 91-year-old illustrating his six-decade-long marriage have circulated on the Internet, leaving Chinese netizens in tears.

Rao Pingru, a native of eastern Jiangxi Province now living in Shanghai, has spent the past four years drawing 200 pictures in 18 albums, about his wife Mao Meitang, who died in 2008 in her early 80s. They were married for

60 years. The albums, titled "Our Stories," are due to be released next month, but by Sunday morning excerpts had been reposted around 260,000 times on China's Twitter-like microblogging services.

Rao, who fought in the Anti-Japanese War, recalls via a coloured drawing his first meeting with Meitang in 1946. "I walked into her house, and saw a twenty-something girl, pretty-

looking, sitting in front of a mirror putting on lipstick. Such was my first impression of Meitang," Rao, a former magazine editor, wrote in the caption.

"How beautiful the first encounter was!" wrote netizen "Zhimatangsu" in a post on Sina Weibo, the country's most popular microblog service. With his pencil and crayons, Rao has recorded details of what he remembers about Meitang.

He has sketched their dates, wedding ceremony, first meal made by Meitang, first fight, his wife's toiling to support their five children and her suffering from nephropathy, disease of the kidney. "I've drawn my love, with every stroke telling the best in you," "Yuchacha" imitating Rao on Sina Weibo.

"I was reduced to tears while skimming through the drawings," net user "Chenfang" wrote on Tencent Weibo, another popular microblogging service in the country. "Yezi" said on Tencent Weibo, "While reading about their lifetime love, I could not stop crying." One illustration shows the pair on a date in a park,

during which Rao was too shy to say "I love you," but instead sang a then-popular English song "Oh Rosemary I Love You." He has also sketched Meitang's last tear on her deathbed. It was on 19 March, 2008, when the family paid their last visit to the hospital.

"Around 10 am, I saw her right eye moisten, with a tear from the corner of her eye. In the afternoon, Meitang left me for good," Rao wrote in the caption. She died of kidney disease. Love that never gets bored is the most beautiful in the world, said "Xiaomigezi" on Tencent Weibo. "We shared life and death, weal and woe. I am now drowned in memories of you, which are deeper than the sea," Rao has written in the title pages of the albums.—Xinhua

Canon launches EOS Rebel T5i DSLR camera with 18-megapixel sensor

TOKYO, 25 March—Canon has introduced EOS Rebel T5i DSLR camera, the new flagship model in its EOS Rebel line. The

EOS Rebel T5i comes with an 18-megapixel CMOS (APS-C) sensor and DIGIC 5 Image Processor. It ships with an ISO range of 100-12800 (expandable to 25600 in H mode) and a continuous shooting speed of up to 5.0 frames per second (fps) united with 9 all cross-type AF focus points.

It features a 3.0-inch Clear View LCD monitor II with touch controls and seven creative filters: ArtBold, Water Painting, Grainy, Black and White, Soft Focus, Toy Camera, Fish-Eye and Miniature.

"Built to make advanced photography creative and fun, the EOS Rebel T5i Digital SLR Camera gives

users exceptional image quality and fast, intuitive operation along with creative functions to help advance photographic expression," said Yuichi Ishizuka, executive vice president and general manager, Imaging Technologies & Communications Group, Canon USA.

The EOS Rebel T5i offers the ability to shoot in 1080p full-HD video in a number of recording sizes and frame rates. With Canon's Hybrid CMOS AF System and Movie Servo AF, the camera provides continuous AF for focus tracking of moving subjects by helping to reduce the camera's need to "hunt", resulting in a quick and smooth continuous AF.

The camera also features a built-in stereo microphone with manual audio level adjustment to enhance sound quality.—PTI

Ancient stone houses in Tibet



Photo taken on 22 March, 2013 shows a stone house which is aged over 600 years in Yangda Village of Riwar Township in Suoxian County in the Nagqu Prefecture, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. Three stone houses, each with the age exceeding more than 600 years, are preserved well in the village.—XINHUA

HTC promises widespread launch of HTC One by end of April

NEW YORK, 25 March—HTC Corp said its latest smartphone, the HTC One, will roll out in three countries next week, but sales will be delayed in North America and other countries in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

HTC, which originally said it would launch the phone in 80 countries in March, said in a statement on Friday that sales would not kick off before the end of April across Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region.

The smartphone maker

has been under pressure from bigger rivals Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics Co.

The company said it has seen "unprecedented demand for and interest in" the new smartphone. "We appreciate our customers' patience, and believe that once they have the phone in their hands they will agree that it has been worth the wait," HTC said.

Reuters

An attendee tests the new HTC One during a launch event in New York, on 19 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS



BUSINESS & HEALTH

Nine ways of regimens in ancient China



Meridians and collaterals

Meridians and their collaterals are pathways in which qi and blood circulate and through which the viscera and limbs are connected, allowing the upper-lower and interior-exterior portions of the body to communicate.

Huangdi Neijing is an ancient Chinese medical text that has been treated as

the fundamental doctrinal source for Chinese medicine for more than two millennia. It said that Meridians and their collaterals could have the power of life and death.

Dietetic life-nourishing

The ancients think that reasonable diet could maintenance you vital essence to keep your healthy.

Following the time

It was said that people should make their schedules according to the change of time of four seasons.

Detoxifying

If you are emotional and temperamental, you should detox by eating food, taking medicine or doing something to reduce the toxins in your body and prevent illness.



Self-cultivation

If you want to keep healthy, you should make self-cultivation first. A good conduct and well behaviour could help you happy.

Taking tonic

In traditional medicine, taking tonic is a good way to improve you health. However, taking tonic should right amount and take the right time.

Peace of mind

Peace of mind is an important part of traditional health preservation. People believed that mind and spirit is the key of your life. Keeping a peace of mind could keep your vigour.

Yuan Qi

In traditional Chinese medicine and Chinese culture, yuán qì is a description of one form of qi. It is usually described as “innate” or “pre-natal” qi to distinguish it from acquired qi that a person may develop of their lifetime.

Yuan Qi could promote internal organs function to build up resistance.

Essence and blood

Essence and blood are the most important part of the nutrients of human and the physical basis of life. So protecting your essence and blood could slow the effects of aging.

Xinhua

US jobs gains concentrated in low-paying sectors: Fed official

WASHINGTON, 25 March — Recent US job gains had been largely concentrated in lower-wage occupations, evidence of the challenges facing the labour market, Federal Reserve Governor Sarah Raskin said here on Friday.

Those low-paying jobs included retail sales, food preparation, manual labour, home health care and customer service, Raskin said in addressing the National Community Reinvestment Coalition Annual Conference.

“The Great Recession stands out for the magnitude of job losses we experienced throughout the downturn. These factors have hit low- and moderate-income Americans the hardest,” Raskin said.

About two-thirds of all job losses resulting from the recession were in moderate-wage occupations, including manufacturing and skilled construction. However, these occupations have accounted for less than one-quarter of

subsequent job gains, she said.

While the current 7.7 percent US unemployment rate was a marked improvement from the 10 percent rate in late 2009, it was still higher than the unemployment rate for the 24 years before the recession, a span of time over which the rate averaged about 6 percent, she said.

The US government’s current estimate of 12 million unemployed does not include nearly a million workers who have given up looking for work and 8 million people who say they were working part time but would prefer a full-time job. A broader measure of underemployment that includes these and other potential workers stands at 14.3 percent, she said. Furthermore, US wage growth had remained more muted than is typical during an economic recovery, partly driven by the low-paying nature of the jobs that had been created, Raskin said.

Xinhua



Anal cancer may be on the rise in the US

NEW YORK, 25 March—The number of people in the US with anal cancer has tripled since the 1970s, according to a new study that suggests rates of detection in high-risk groups may partly explain the rise in cases.

A US cancer database search found that the rate of anal cancers went from approximately one person per 100,000 between 1973 and 1996 to three people per 100,000 between 1997 and 2009.

“I think the literature has already shown that there has been an increase in anal cancer cases, but we were surprised to see how dramatically it increased,” according to Dr Lily Lai, the study’s senior author from City of Hope in Duarte, California.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), about 7,000 people will be diagnosed with anal cancer in the US in 2013, and about 900 will die from the disease. The most common type of anal cancer by far is squamous cell carcinoma, which accounts for about 85 percent of cases.

For the new study, Lai and her colleagues

analyzed trends in the 11,231 squamous cell carcinoma cases described in a US database for the years 1973 through 2009.

They saw a large jump in 1997—in the 23 years before that one, 4,224 people had been diagnosed, compared to 7,007 people in the 13 years afterward.

Although both sexes saw an increase in anal cancers, the rate for men jumped most dramatically—from one in every 100,000 men to three in every 100,000. That compared to the women’s rate, which rose from 1.4 in every 100,000 women to about 2.4 in every 100,000.

Reuters

Blackstone, Icahn set up three-way battle to buy out Dell



Michael Dell Chairman and CEO of Dell Inc arrives at the launch event of Windows 8 operating system in New York, on 25 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

HONG KONG, 25 March—China’s biggest sportswear brand, Li Ning Co Ltd (2331.HK), launched its newest brand at a gala event in Texas last month with US basketball star Dwayne Wade, resplendent in gold bow tie and plaid suit, showing off sports shoes he helped design.

But his fans can’t buy them yet. Li Ning, founded by the Chinese Olympic gymnast of the same name, has no stores in the United States and recently shut the e-commerce section of its US website. While luring Wade from rival Nike Inc (NKE.N) last year in a sponsorship deal worth an estimated \$100 million over 10 years is a major coup for the Chinese firm,

it has left analysts puzzling the logic of splashing out on an expensive NBA superstar with no apparent US retail strategy in place.

Sports industry analysts said the Wade signing was

more about marketing to Chinese consumers than trying to build brand recognition in the United States, where Nike and its Jordan brand control 90 percent of the basketball shoe market.



A customer shops at a Li Ning sportswear store in front of a poster of NBA basketball player Dwyane Wade in Shenyang, Liaoning Province on 21 March, 2013.

REUTERS

options, a person familiar with the matter said.

The buyout firm has not yet arranged bank financing, though it has put potential lenders on stand-by, according to a second source familiar with the matter. Billionaire investor Carl Icahn, who has built up a minority stake in Dell and opposes the offer by founder Michael Dell and Silver Lake, also made an offer, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Details of the competing offers were not immediately known, but any rival bid would have to prove more appealing than the \$13.65-per-share offer of Dell’s founder and his private equity partner.

Blackstone is offering between \$13.65 and \$15 a share—trumping Michael Dell and Silver Lake’s \$13.65—in a deal that will invite shareholder participation, the Wall Street Journal reported.

Reuters

“The primary idea here is to say to the Chinese consumer, ‘One of the best players in the NBA is wearing our shoes and you should too,’” said Matt Powell, an analyst with Boulder, Colorado-based sporting goods research group SportsOneSource. The Chinese firm is paying top dollar for an elite athlete just as Nike and other established sportswear brands are scaling back on big-name endorsements because of disappointing returns. A decade ago, Nike reportedly paid Wade’s superstar teammate LeBron James more than \$90 million for a 7-year contract, but high-potential rookie players now command shoe contracts worth just \$1-\$2 million a year, Powell said.

James is the world’s fourth highest-paid athlete with endorsements bringing in \$40 million a year, according to a Forbes ranking as of June 2012. Wade ranked 35th, with \$12 million a year in endorsements. “It (the Wade deal) has a positive effect in boosting Li Ning’s image... but it doesn’t necessarily generate more sales,” said Elyse Wang, an analyst at Haitong International Research in Shenzhen.

Reuters

WORLD

Rebels capture Central African Republic capital, president flees



People gather around a burnt Seleka Rebel truck in Begoua, 17 km (10 miles) from capital Bangui, in this still image taken from video, on 23 March, 2013.

REUTERS

BANGUI, 25 March—Rebels in Central African Republic seized the riverside capital Bangui in fierce fighting on Sunday, forcing President Francois Bozize to flee and sowing confusion over who rules the mineral-rich heart of Africa.

At least nine South Af-

rican soldiers were killed trying to prevent the rebels from taking Bangui, a Reuters witness said, dealing a blow to Pretoria's attempt to stabilize the chaotic central African nation and assert its influence in the region.

The Seleka rebel coalition resumed hostilities

on Thursday in the former French colony and quickly swept south to Bangui with the aim of ousting Bozize, whom it accused of breaking a January peace deal to integrate its fighters into the army.

"We have taken the presidential palace," Eric Massi, a Seleka spokesman, told Reuters by telephone early on Sunday. Government officials confirmed the rebels had captured the city of more than 600,000 people, which lies on the banks of the Oubangi river bordering Democratic Republic of Congo.

The violence is the latest in a series of rebel incursions, clashes and coups that have plagued the landlocked nation - which has rich yet underexploited deposits of gold, diamonds

and uranium—since independence from France in 1960.

Bozize rose to prominence in the military during the 1966-1979 rule of former dictator Jean-Bedel Bokassa, a self-styled emperor. Bozize seized power in a 2003 coup but his failure to make good on promises of power sharing after winning disputed 2011 polls led to the offensive by five rebel groups known as Seleka, which means "alliance" in the Sango language. Seleka leader Michel Djotodia, named as deputy prime minister after January's peace deal, proclaimed himself interim president on Sunday, the movement's Secretary-General Justin Kombo told Reuters.

Reuters

No radiation at Berezovsky home, no sign of outside role in death

ASCOT, 25 March—British police searched for radiation and chemicals at former Russian oligarch Boris Berezovsky's home near London on Sunday but found none, and said there was no evidence anyone else was involved in his still unexplained death.

The arrival of a team of investigators searching for radiation briefly evoked the death of Berezovsky's friend Alexander Litvinenko, a former Russian spy poisoned with radioactive material in London in 2006. However, police gave the all clear on Sunday morning, saying no radiation had been found.

A day after the 67-year-old Berezovsky's body was

found in the locked bathroom of his imposing country mansion, police said it was still unclear how he had died. "It would be wrong to speculate on the cause of death until the post mortem has been carried out," said Detective Chief Inspector Kevin Brown, deputy senior investigating officer. "We do not have any evidence at this stage to suggest third party involvement." Once known as the "godfather of the Kremlin", the former billionaire powerbroker helped Vladimir Putin rise to the top before falling out of favour himself and fleeing in 2000 to Britain where he became one of the president's biggest critics.—Reuters



A forensics truck waits to be let through the police cordon at the house of Russian oligarch Boris Berezovsky where he was found dead yesterday at his home near Ascot in Berkshire on 24 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Lebanon harboring over 375,000 Syrian refugees

BEIRUT, 25 March—There are currently over 375,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon, a weekly rise of about 18,000, the UN Higher Refugees Council said in a report on Sunday.

More than 238,000 refugees have been already registered in various offices of the agency throughout

Lebanon, while some 136,000 are in Lebanon and still waiting for finalizing their registration process, said the report. The refugees are receiving aid from the Lebanese government, UN-affiliated agencies and their partners of non-governmental aid agencies, the report said.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres has called on the international community to show commitment and back Lebanon, which is hosting a high number of Syrian refugees that has surpassed 10 percent of Lebanon's own population.

Lebanon has submitted

a plan that appeals for offering a financial aid of 370 million US dollars to help the country deal with the Syrian refugees.

Syria has been witnessing unrest for over two years, forcing thousands of Syrians fleeing to neighbouring countries.

Xinhua

Businessman leading Paraguay presidential race

ASUNCION, 25 March—Millionaire businessman and political newcomer Horacio Cartes is topping polls before Paraguay's on 21 April presidential election, although the size of his lead varied significantly in two surveys published on Sunday.

Cartes, 56, hopes to get the rightist Colorado Party back in office after four years on the margins of power in Paraguay, one of South America's poorest countries.

His main rival is Efraim Alegre of the ruling centre-right Liberal Party that took over the presidency in June, when Congress impeached left-leaning President Fernando Lugo, a former Roman Catholic bishop.

Alegre is a 50-year-old lawyer and longtime politician.

Cartes was shown capturing 42.7 percent of voter preferences versus Alegre's 29.2 percent in a poll by Grau & Asociados consulting group, published in daily newspaper *Ultima Hora*.

Another survey showed

him with a much slimmer lead, however. The poll by *Gabinete de Estudios de Opinion*, published in the same newspaper, showed Cartes with 36.8 percent of voter support versus Alegre's 35.6 percent.

Adolfo Grau, who heads the consultancy bearing his name, said Cartes' victory in next month's election was practically assured, whereas the head of GEO, Jose Nicolas Morinigo, said either candidate could end up leading the soy-exporting nation.

Polling in third place with less than 10 percent of voter support is local TV host Mario Ferreiro, who is leading the Avanza Pais coalition of leftist parties, both surveys showed.

The poll by Grau & Asociados was conducted from 13 March to 21 March among 1,400 people, with a margin of error of 3 percent. The GEO survey was carried out between 6 March and 15 March among 1,401 respondents and has a margin of error of 2.6 percent.

Reuters



Presidential candidate Horacio Cartes of the Colorado Party (3rd R in red) waves to supporters in his motorcade during his visit to Luque on 12 March, 2013.

REUTERS

100 days after Newtown massacre, US gun debate still in limbo

WASHINGTON, 25 March—One hundred days after the massacre that ended with the death of 20 children aged six or seven in Newtown, Connecticut, it remains unknown whether a gun control bill will be passed in US Congress.

Lawmakers aim to plug the gap that allows gun buyers to circumvent the national background check system. While those purchasing firearms from licensed gun dealers must submit a criminal background check, many buyers can legally purchase guns person-to-person.

But Congress remains bitterly divided and experts said it may be difficult for the two parties to pass a bill.

The Democratic-controlled Senate's new gun control bill includes broadened federal background checks for those purchasing firearms. Senate majority leader Harry Reid said on Thursday the gun control legislation would likely be debated in his chamber next month.

Appearing Sunday on NBC's Meet the Press, outspoken gun control advocate, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, said he was "cautiously optimistic" that Congress would pass a bill requiring universal background checks for all gun buyers.

But he said a majority of the public and members of gun rights group National Rifle Association (NRA) said they think there should be reasonable checks before people are allowed to buy guns.

"There are an awful lot of people who think this is one of the great issues of our time," he said.

But host David Gregory noted that Congress is paralyzed, mirroring analysts who say that the GOP-controlled House would not likely pass a bill that gun proponents deemed unfair.

"We will be able to judge that after the recess," Bloomberg countered.

"We're trying to do everything we can to impress upon the Senators that

this is what the survivors (of gun violence) want, this is what the public wants, this is what the 900 plus mayors that are in our organization want," he said.

"I don't think there's ever been an issue where people have spoken so clearly where Congress hasn't eventually understood and done the right thing," he said, adding he would buy 12 million US dollars of ads in a new campaign designed to boost support for background check legislation.

Speaking on the same show, NRA head Wayne LaPierre said Bloomberg will not be able to buy votes in favour of what gun advocates describe as government overstepping its boundaries.

"He can't spend enough of his 27 billion dollars to try to impose his will on the American public," he said. "They sure don't want him telling them what self defence fire arms to own."

Xinhua

NATIONAL

More private daily newspapers granted

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—The Central Supervisory committee for Registration and Distribution of printers and publishers held its meeting (3/2013) at the Ministry of Information, here, this morning. It was attended by the chairman and members of the committee who scrutinized the applications to publish private dailies.

The Ministry of Information issued an announcement through dailies that applicants are invited to submit their

applications starting from 1 February 2013 for publication of daily newspapers as of 1-4-2013. After 14 out of 17 application forms had been scrutinized, eight applicants were granted temporary permission to publish dailies as of 1-4-2013 in accord with the existing 1962 Printers and Publishers Registration Act. The six remaining applicants were informed to submit their applications with requirements.

The today's meeting of the committee scrutinized and granted nine of 11

applications—three applications of the six applicants, three applications being under scrutiny, and five new applications. The list of applicants granted are (a) The Daily Eleven (applicant Eleven Media Group Co Ltd), (b) San Taw Chein (applicant Three Friends Construction Co Ltd), (c) Khit Thit Daily (applicant Dr Tin Tun), (d) Yangon Times (applicant U Ko Ko), (e) Myanmar Dika (applicant U Myint Than) (f) D Wave (applicant Daw Aung San Suu Kyi), (g) Union Athan

(applicant Daw Win Khlar Swe) and (h) 7 Day Daily (applicant U Thaung Su Nyein).

So far, 16 private daily newspapers have been granted to publish. The three remaining applications which are under scrutiny and the new applications will be scrutinized at the coordination meeting of Central Supervisory Committee for Registration and Distribution of Printers and Publishers to be held in April.

MNA

Calm prevails in Yangon



A night scene in downtown Yangon shows prevailing peace and stability.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March — It is learnt that a group of persons who are unwilling to see peace and stability in the country are trying to destabilize peace and tranquility of Yangon based on unrests occurred

in Meiktila of Mandalay Region starting from 20 March.

The spread of rumours occurred to close shops in Mingala Market and Yuzana Plaza. It is learnt that there was no violence and unrest

and rumours circulated by those with ill-will who want to harm peace and stability led to closure of shops.

Local authorities concerned and townsenders in respective townships of Yangon municipal area are

now focusing on peace and stability in their townships and wards.

“People are required to not show belief on rumours. The present situation in Yangon is calm and security measures are being taken systematically”, an official of Yangon Region Government explained the news team.

MNA

Tatmadawmen, staff clear debris in Meiktila

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—As authorities concerned could resolve the riots occurred from 20 March in Meiktila, residents are doing their regular transactions.

Tatmadawmen of township local regiments and units, social organization members and locals and municipal staff cleared the debris from the recent

riots. As eight bodies were found among the debris while clearing the wreckages, the official death toll increased to 40 till 24 March evening.

MNA



Local people in Meiktila seen at their regular transactions.—MNA

Summer sports course opened

YANGON, 25 March—With the aim of ensuring the entire people to have health and fitness, enabling the youths to join sports events, uplifting Myanmar sports standard and bringing the honour to the nation, the basic summer sports training courses were opened at Aung San Stadium, here, on 18 March morning. Director-General of the Sports and Physical

Education Department U Myo Hlaing made a speech.

At first, selected athletes from various sports federations demonstrated their skills in martial arts, Karatedo and Wushu events.

At the summer sports courses 2013, trainees will be placed under training in 29 sports events such as swimming, Judo, Karatedo, table tennis, volleyball,

badminton, cycling, Taekwondo, weightlifting, cricket, sailing, football, hockey, Sepak Takraw, body-building, basketball, Wushu, rowing, cane-ball, chess, boxing, track & field, martial art, aerobics, gymnastics, golf, tennis, baseball and bowling.

The summer basic sports training course runs from 18 March to 11 April.

Myanma Alinn

Course on census-taking opens in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 25 March—A ceremony to open the training course on census-taking for 2014 was held at the hall of Mandalay University on 18 March, with an address by Director-General U Myint Kyaing of Population Department.

Secretary of Mandalay

Region Census Committee Head of Mandalay Region Immigration and National Registration Department U Thaung Zaw, Director of Region Population Department Dr Nyi Nyi and trainers, the adviser to the UNFPA and members of the district and township census

committees, representatives of Election Commission, and 10 trainees from audit course and 50 from census-taking course, totalling 60 trainees. The test census-taking will be held in designated townships of Mandalay Region from 30 March to 10 April.

Myanma Alinn



PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 26 March, 2013

Environmental-friendly urbanization

Assumably rapid urbanization is the main culprit of the many environmental problems all around the world. As the urban areas are growing, too much use of natural resources for industries and natural gas and sewages cause severe damages to the environment. Overuse of energy and potable water couple with disposal of garbage and sewages and carbon emission from cars in urban areas can cause damages to environment as well. And according to estimation, over 50 percent of global population are living in the urban areas.

As the world population is growing and many countries gaining progress, there will be more urbanization in the future too. So, the best answer to this environmental problem is green urbanization that can ensure a mutual beneficial correlation between mankind and environment. Here sustainable development of urban areas is of vital importance as they are accommodating a large number of people at their limited spaces. So we must bear in mind the environmental safety, economy and social security on an equal manner. In this age urban development programme has become a top priority for every government as metropolitans are the economic hubs housing a larger number of people, industries and businesses.

We must give priority to erecting basic infrastructures such as public transportation, energy-saving buildings, water consumption and garbage disposal and sewage systems in setting up or extending green urban areas or in other works we must build green cities. In addition, governments need to persuade their citizens to take energy-saving measures such as walking and cycling. Establishment of green cities includes the construction of new cities and upgrading of current cities into the environmental-friendly ones.

As we are a country implementing democracy for our rapid economic growth and prosperity, we need to build green cities by studying the experience of other countries.

EPS-TOPIK (Computer Based Test-CBT) Centre opened

YANGON, 25 March — The opening of EPS-TOPIK (Computer Based Test-CBT) Centre took place at the centre on Nagayon pagoda street in ward 5 of Mayangon Township, here, this morning.

It was attended by Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint, the directors-general of the ministry, officials of Embassy of the ROK in Myanmar, Vice-President MR. Lee Choon Book and party of HRD Service of Korea, Resident Director Mr. Choi Jung In and guests.

The Union minister and the HRD vice-president spoke on the occasion and the counselor of the Embassy of ROK formally opened the centre.

Thanks to opening of the centre, question and answer papers can be sent through online and exam results announced within a short period of time, thereby saving time and cost. Moreover, Korean language skill test will be held every three months. It is set to organize examinations on 28 and 29 March and 1 April.

MNA

ARTICLE

THE SHWEDAGON

On the full moon day of Tabaung, 1374 Myanmar Era (26th March 2013), founding of Sacred Shwedagon will have completed 2601 years. The Shwedagon Pagoda was the first ever relic pagoda to be enshrined during the lifetime of Lord Buddha Gautama after achieving Supreme Self-Enlightenment on the full moon day of Kason in 103 Maha Era. On the 5th waxing day of Waso, while reposing in *nibbanic* bliss in the sacred site of Enlightenment, Lord Buddha received two merchant brothers Taphussa and Bhallika from the kingdom of Ramanya. After accepting offertories the Enlightened One gave eight strands of hair for future veneration. The two merchant brothers returned to Ramanya. With the royal patronage of Mon King Okkalapa small pagoda was built and enshrined with the relic hair of Lord Buddha. Sacred relics from previously Enlightened Buddhas: Kakusanta, Konagamana, and Kassapa were also enshrined. Thus the Shwedagon Pagoda is known to the Buddhists as repository of relics of Four Self-Enlightened Buddhas of Badda Kappa enshrined for worship and veneration 2601 years ago. And the two merchants became converted as the first lay disciples of Buddhism.

On the full moon day of Waso, Lord Buddha the Omniscient One delivered the first sermon *Dhammacakka Pavuttana Sutta* and after five days *Anatta Lakkhana Sutta* to the five ascetic hermits who attended Him all along the 6 years of ascetic practice. The Holy Five became converted to Buddhism and became Arahats of the Order of Sanghas thus completed the founding of the Three Jewels: Buddha, Dhamma and Sanghas. Lord Buddha spread the Dhamma teachings and practice through 45 years of Supreme Ministry before achieving Maha Parinibbana. It will be 2556 years of Sasana in full moon day of Kason 1375 Myanmar Era.

The earliest Shwedagon Pagoda was

only 44 elbow lengths (66 feet) high and constructed on the Tampadipa Hill, now known as Singuttara Hill. Later it was raised to 131 feet by the benevolent Mon Queen Shin Saw Pu (1453-1472). As it was seated on the volcanic chain with the open sea beyond, it suffered strong winds and earthquakes severe enough to wreck the structure and topple the Hti (*umbrella*) many a time. Thus in the course of centuries, powerful Mons and Myanmar kings converted to Buddhism became royal patrons of Buddhist faith, repaired and renovated Shwedagon which now stood at 326 feet in height enshrined on religious land spanning 121 acres at 190 feet above sea level. The Chronicle of the Shwedagon Pagoda was faithfully recorded and documented by many reputed scholars, historians, researchers and eminent writers both in native Myanmar and English in varying style of presentation from different perspectives. Thus the author would like to leave the details for the readers to probe onwards. Suffice it to say that it was severely toppled 5 times during the successive dynasties of Myanmar sovereign kings and a new Hti hoisted on the pinnacle those number of times with ornate ceremonies, pomp and pageantry. The second latest Hti was donated by King Mindon in 1871.

In 1970 a severe earthquake damaged the main structure and Hti of King Mindon. Extensive repairs were carried out by generous donation of the State, authorities and the general public and King Mindon's renovated Hti was hoisted in 1973. In April 1999 a new Hti was hoisted. The replicas of old Hti were enshrined as stupas in the northeast direction of the Pagoda plinth for study and research by scholars, historians and public.

The Shwedagon is verily a storehouse of priceless relics of tradition, culture and heritage value. Quoting authoritative statistics revealed interesting data. The main Pagoda was constructed and enshrined on religious land spanning 121 acres. The height of

the main Pagoda is 326 feet standing at 190 FASL. The main pagoda structure is plated with 33699 pure gold plates each measuring 12 inch square. The Hti is decorated with 83850 kinds of precious jewellery, 4016 golden bells. The golden weather vane is encrusted with 1098 diamonds (240 ratis), and 1338 precious gems. The diamond orb (*sein-bu-taw*) is encrusted with 4351 diamonds (2000 ratis) and 930 precious gems. The size of the main diamond encrusted in the orb is 76 carat. There are 376 relic pagodas of varying sizes surrounding the main stupa and innumerable relic Buddha images of varying sizes and shapes, sitting, standing and reclining, with positions of hands taking various postures indicating different meaning and message. The most notable are the Nine Wonder Images located on the various auspicious locations. Devotees, astrologers, occultists believe that their wishes can be fulfilled by praying on their sites.

The Shwedagon is a repository of donations of priceless value borne of priceless ancestry and heritage donated through centuries by Myanmar sovereigns, royalty, the wealthy and the common multitude and preserved all these years to this day. There is also the Shwedagon Bo Bo Gyi, the mighty Guardian Spirit protecting the Pagoda, its environs, its city dwellers and of immense interest to note. There are 84 open pavilions (*tazaungs*), and rest houses (*zayats*) for pilgrims coming from far and near to take shelter while paying homage to the magnificent Shwedagon. Then there are many prayer halls where Lord Buddhas' relic images repose for prayers and meditation. On four directions: east, west, north and south there are four large wide and colonnaded stairs built long ago to climb on foot. Now with the trend of the time to help ageing and disabled pilgrims climb with ease, new lifts are being harnessed on east, north and south. On the western corridor commonly known as two-piece *tazaung* (*hnapyatazaung*) twin escalators

are harnessed. There are 71 voluntary religious associations undertaking cleaning, sweeping, collecting garbage and sanitation work around the premise of the pagodas on assigned days, organize prayer sessions and carry out other social functions. The oldest association '**Ponnya Kusala Bahu-kara**' was established in 1898. There are many mystic places too many to count which again the author leaves to the pilgrims to delve into their innermost secrets at will.

Then there are famous large bells of note on the Pagoda donated by exalted kings. There is the Singumin Bell casted in 1771, located in the northwest direction weighing 15555 viss or 24 tons. It was taken by the British Imperialist forces but sank in the River as the barge collapsed and was retrieved in 1824. Another bell of note is King Thayawady's Bell casted in 1841 and weighed 26000 viss or 42 tons. Quoting Myanmar history there also existed a large bell, casted and donated by Mon King Dhammacedi around AD 1485 weighing 180,000 viss or 300 tons. It was taken from the Shwedagon by Nga Zingar (Philip De Brito e Nicote) in 1608 to Syriam but sank in the River while crossing and never recovered.

A strange incident occurred in 2 March 1903 when a full grown female tiger climbed and crouched on the bell-shaped part of Shwedagon. It could be imagined that there was a touch of environment in those days when Singuttara Hill was fringed with forest and wildlife when one stray tiger might have wandered too far from her habitat and tragically met her end.

Dear readers, this is **the Shwedagon**, the most revered object of worship and veneration, the most frequented pilgrimage site by the Buddhists and interesting subject of art, architecture and sculpture by visitors within and abroad. From morning to night people visit the sacred site to offer prayers, to contemplate and meditate, to make donations of alms and food, (See page 9)

NATIONAL

Mandalay Region Chief Minister donates offertories to monasteries in Meiktila

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Myint Soe of the Commander-in-Chief (Army)'s Office, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay and officials donated offertories to the Sayadaws of the monasteries in Meiktila this morning.

The Chief Minister and party offered rice, edible oil and medicines to abbots of Koenawin Pariyatti Sathintaik in Aungzeyer Ward in the township, SasanaWaiponla Monastery in Yan Myo Aung Ward and Wamtaupya Monastery in Kyitawkon Ward.

They paid homage to sacred relics being kept in the relic chamber of the monastery.

They then offered rice, edible oil and medicines to abbot of Thaddama-wunthayon Monastery in Nandawkon Ward.

During their tour



Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Myint Soe of the Commander-in-Chief (Army)'s Office donate offertories to a Sayadaw.

MNA

of monasteries, Chief Minister U Ye Myint supplicated the Sayadaws to join hands with the authorities concerned in preventing unrests,

thanking them for their helps while settling the recent riots.

It was learnt that there have been 3293 victims at 16 monasteries

in Meiktila, and a total of 550 bags of rice and 530 viss of edible oil were provided to the victims and the monks.

MNA

Myanmar, UN focus on further cooperation



NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advisor on Myanmar Mr. Vijay Nambiar paid a call on Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin at the latter's office, here, this morning.

They held discussions on ongoing progress in Myanmar and further cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations.—MNA

Union FM sends felicitations to Foreign Minister of Bangladesh

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Independence and National Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, which falls on 26th March 2013, His Excellency U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Dr. Dipu Moni, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.—MNA

Maung Swe Ngae

THE SHWEDAGON

(from page 8)

gold leaves and cash, flowers, candles, joss sticks and water. Religious associations offer group prayers, suttas and mantras for future well-being. Tourists walk around admiring objects of interest unique to our Myanmar land. People throng the Shwedagon premises especially on week-ends where they can stroll along in leisure. Festivities abound every month of the Myanmar lunar year, most notably the Shwedagon festival of the full moon day of Tabaung. There are also traditional festivals of Kason, Waso, Thingyut, Tazaungtaing festival including the

weaving competition of Mathoe-Thingan robe on the evening of fourteen waxing of Tazaungmone and completed by dawn of the full moon day to be offered in veneration to the four relic replica images in the four prayer halls of the Pagoda. The open season is time for pilgrimage mostly from the countryside. Ethnic nationalities such as Shans, Palaungs, Taungthus and Myanmars throng the Shwedagon to pray, offer donation and gain merit. Many individual devotees seek a private corner on the upper open platform of the Pagoda to pray to the sacred relic Tawagu, and meditate in serene solitude.

The Shwedagon had

gone through ups and downs of history through these centuries, overcoming them with unwavering faith of millions of disciples and devotees, who had prayed on its pristine premises. All along these centuries the vibrations of their devout prayers echo on the ground they tread, the water they drink and the air they breathe, leaving precious legacy to the succeeding Buddhist generations.

There are nuances by other faiths over Buddhists professing idol worship considering millions of pagoda and Buddha's relic images, material edifices seen around the country. In effect what Buddhists worship are not the material manifestations but transcend beyond in the Dhammas as

taught by the Omniscient One, the five Khandas, practice of Samatha and vipassana meditation. Through the understanding and contemplation of Tilakhana, the four noble truths and eightfold noble paths, his aspiration is for end of suffering and achieving Nibbana, ultimate cessation and bliss.

The Shwedagon is verily the soul of our people. For visitors entering Yangon airspace or sea lane from abroad the first sight visible from afar is the Shwedagon, awe-inspiring, magnificent, a huge virtually symmetrical golden spire tapering majestically skywards. It transfuses unmatched radiance in the morning sun, rich gold against the multi-coloured brilliance of

hundreds of red, blue, white, green, emerald, and amber priceless jewels, adorning the multi-tiered Hti. The bells casted in gold, silver and brass tinklemerrily to the swing of the atmospheric wind.

At noontime the sun shines mercilessly making devotees scurry into shades of roofs and trees plentiful on the pagoda hill. The heat softens in the evening as the dying rays simmer down the west of the Yangon River until enveloped by the dark of the night. Stars deck the dark cloak dome high above, offering faint brilliance as modern lighting takes over with giant beams of search lights silhouetting the Golden Pagoda in sharp relief. On waxing and full moon nights with backdrop of clear winter

sky the silvery moon with its retinue of stars in the galaxy vie with the artificial emissions. Scenes change with the changing weather, monsoon rains in the raining season, pleasant chill in the open season of winter and scorching heat in the hot season. It is indeed nature's panorama of highest artistry in devout veneration to Lord Buddha manifested in its relic replica.

This is the Shwedagon, harbinger of peace, tranquillity and serenity, and eternal wonder of the Buddhist World.

The author bows in deep obeisance to the Omniscient, the Compassionate One, the All-Knowing One, and the Supreme Self-Enlightened One !!!

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Thai guests

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa received a delegation led by Mr Charae Panpruang, Deputy Secretary-General of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives of Thailand, at the meeting hall No.1 of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Building, here, this afternoon.

Both sides had a cordial discussion on Hluttaw

affairs of Myanmar, further relations between the Hluttaws of Myanmar and Thailand and assistance for Hluttaw Library.

Also present at the call were member of Hluttaw Right Committee U Aung Hsan, member of the Hluttaw's Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Development Committee U Nyunt Hlaing and officials of the Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa shakes hands with Mr Charae Panpruang, Deputy Secretary-General of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives of Thailand at the meeting hall No.1 of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Building.—MNA



Peace process would be fostered as eternal peace to be handed down to new generations



Union Minister U Aung Min and Representative Ms Kelko Kiyama of Japan Platform exchange notes on MoU on projects of Japan Platform in Kayin State.—MNA

YANGON, 25 March—In the time of the new government, a system is being practiced for donor countries to directly provide aid to national brethren, said Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min at the ceremony of Japanese government to provide assistance for construction of new building of peace centre and the ceremony to sign an MoU between Myanmar Peace Centre and Japan Platform held at the Japanese Embassy on Natmuk Street, here, this morning.

The Union Minister thanked Japan for its contribution to the peace making process before receiving the international aid. He kept a promise that the existing peace process would be fostered as eternal peace to be handed down to

new generations.

Japanese Ambassador Mr Mikio Numata and Executive Director U Kyaw Soe Hlaing of Myanmar Peace Centre signed the agreement for providing

assistance and exchanged notes.

Chairman of the Centre Union Minister U Aung Min and Representative Ms Kelko Kiyama of Japan Platform signed the MoU on

projects of Japan Platform in Kayin State and exchanged notes.

Japanese Government highly recognized peace making process of Myanmar, endeavours for restoring stability and peace and uplifting livelihoods of the national races.

Japanese Government contributed to Japan Platform for implementing development of living standard of the local people. Japan Platform will spend US\$ 11 million on implementation of the projects in Kayin State within three years joining hands with 11 NGOs.

The ceremony was attended by officials of Myanmar Peace Centre, Japanese Embassy and media persons.

MNA

Tatmadawmen on patrol in Meiktila for peace and stability

NAYPYITAW, 25 March—Calm returned to Meiktila of Mandalay Region where violence and unrest broke out on 20 March as peace and stability has been restored there thanks to security measures undertaken by Tatmadawmen and officials concerned following the declaration of a State of Emergency on 22 March.

The Tatmadawmen are taking security measures

round the clock to prevent unwanted riots from breaking out again patrolling at nights in Thedaw, Wundwin, Mahlaing and Meiktila Townships and nearby villages by car and on foot on 23 and 24 March. Moreover, they assisted the villagers who want to return to their homes and cleared the vehicle wreckages and debris damaged buildings.

MNA

Appointment of Omani Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Janab Alsayyid Fakhry bin Mohammed bin Said Al Said as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Janab Alsayyid Fakhry bin Mohammed bin Said Al Said was born in Zanzibar on 1 January 1952. He got Bachelor Degree in Economic and Political Sciences from the American University in 1983.

Mr Janab Alsayyid Fakhry bin Mohammed bin Said Al Said joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the European Department as a Second Secretary in 1983. He posted in the Embassy of the Sultanate in Tokyo as Charge of Affairs in 1987. He was appointed as the Head of the Pacific Office in 1992 in the Asian Department. He had served as Charge of Affairs at the Embassy of the Sultanate to Japan in 1997, as Charge of Affairs at the Embassy of the Sultanate to South Africa in 2003 and as the Deputy Head of the Mission at the Embassy of the Sultanate to Vienna in 2007. And he has been serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam from 2008 up to now. He is married with four children.

Mr Janab Alsayyid Fakhry bin Mohammed bin Said Al Said will serve as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

MNA

Mandalay Region Chief Minister meets representatives from international organizations

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint met 13-member delegation from Myanmar Red Cross Society, International Committee of the Red Cross and UN agencies led by Ms. Helevo Nozono of United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs at the meeting hall of district

general administration department in Meiktila this morning.

During the meeting, they held discussions on security measures in relief camps, health, food, distribution of relief aids in Meiktila, plans for return of victims to their homes and taking household certificates in relief camps.—MNA

Tatmadawmen patrolling at night in Meiktila.—MNA



REGIONAL



Chinese President Xi Jinping (1st L) and his wife Peng Liyuan (2nd R) are welcomed by Tanzanian President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete (2nd L) and his wife Salma Kikwete (1st R) upon their arrival in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 24 March, 2013. XINHUA

Leftist rebel killed in S Philippine clash

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 25 March—One alleged leftist rebel was killed in a clash with government troops in southern Philippines on Sunday, the military said.

The body of an unidentified male guerrilla was recovered by soldiers after the encounter at Dalwangan village, Malaybalay city in Mindanao's northern Province of Bukidnon, according to Lieutenant Colonel Eugenio Julio Osias IV, spokesperson of the army's 4th Infantry Division. Osias said soldiers from the 5th Scout Ranger Company, 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion were conducting combat operations when they chanced upon a group of gunmen believed to be New People's Army rebels, sparking a 15-minute firefight. He said an M-14 rifle was also found near the body of the slain rebel.

Pursuit against the insurgents were being launched, the military official said. The 4,000-strong NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has been fighting a leftist insurgency in 60 Philippine provinces since 1969.—Xinhua

China, Russia agree to strengthen defence cooperation

Moscow, 25 March—Top Chinese and Russian military officials met here on Sunday, with both sides expressing the hope to further strengthen defence cooperation.

During a meeting with Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, Chang Wanguan, Chinese State Councilor and Defence Minister, said that bilateral defence cooperation is a key part of China-Russia relations.

Through joint efforts, wide-ranging and multi-layer defence cooperation has become a pivot of the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership, Chang noted. Currently, both sides should work hard to implement the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries, and strength-

en military-to-military exchanges and cooperation, said the Chinese minister.

China is ready to work with Russia to tap the potentials and expand the scope of bilateral defence cooperation, so as to lift it to a new level, Chang said.

He cited several key areas in the promotion of pragmatic cooperation between the two armed forces, including high-level contact, strategic negotiation, joint exercise and personnel exchange. Chang also pointed out that the just-concluded state visit to Russia by Chinese President Xi Jinping has injected new impetus into the two countries' strategic partnership.

"Given the complex international scenario today, China-Russia strategic co-

operation and coordination will not only benefit the two peoples, but also help promote world peace and stability," he observed.

Shoigu, for his part, hailed the "unprecedented high level" of the Russia-China strategic partnership. The consensus reached by the top leaders has shown the direction of future development of bilateral ties, he noted. Russia attaches great importance to mutually beneficial cooperation with China, and is satisfied with the fruitful military exchanges between the two sides, the minister said.

Russia is willing to strengthen coordination with China and further push forward defence cooperation between the two countries, he added.—Xinhua

S Korea to foster convergence technology between industries

SEOUL, 25 March—South Korea planned to push for the fostering of technology convergence between industries as part of efforts to advance key industries to a higher level and subsequently create high-quality jobs, the commerce ministry said on Monday.

Four new convergence industries, including 'smart' medical devices, or the convergence of technology between medical equipment and information technology (IT) sectors, will be pushed for under the new administration of President Park Geun-hye, according to the Ministry of Trade, Indus-

try and Energy (MOTIE). The commerce ministry will also help the nation's leading industries such as tech, auto and shipbuilding sectors blend their technologies and develop newly advanced products such as smart cars, green cars and green ships.

"Convergence between industries has been pushed for by our ministry continuously," Commerce Minister Yoon Sang-jick told a press briefing on Sunday. "We will seek to find promising convergence industries after consulting with the future creation and science ministry."

The ministry also

planned to expand its financial support to small businesses for research and development (R&D) to make them become global companies with technology competitiveness. The support will more than triple to 170 billion won (150 million US dollars) in 2017 from 54 billion won in 2012.

The Ministry of Knowledge Economy was renamed as the MOTIE after receiving the function of trade negotiation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs caused by the passage of the government reorganization bill through the National Assembly.

Xinhua



Visitors queue to visit the Government House on its open day in Canberra, Australia, on 24 March, 2013. The official residence of Australian Governor-General opens for public visiting on the annual Government House Open Day.—XINHUA

Severe thunderstorms hit Australia's Queensland, cut power to thousands of homes

BRISBANE, (Australia), 25 March—Thousands of homes remain without power and a man has been critically injured after severe thunderstorms battered Australia's southeast Queensland on Sunday night, local media reported on Monday.

The storm, with winds up to 90 kilometres an hour, brought down trees and cut power to more than 50,000 homes and businesses in the region, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). Emergency crews from Queensland-based energy company Energex are working to restore power to the remaining 11,000 properties in the

affected areas. "The network received significant damage in the areas still affected and will take some time to make repairs," Energex said in a statement posted on Monday on its website. "More than 300 fallen powerlines were reported to Energex overnight and nearly 60 this morning." By 8:30 am local time on Monday, Energex crews had restored power to 47,000 homes and businesses across southeast Queensland, the company said. Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) said a man in his 40s was running at St Lucia in Brisbane's inner west when he was hit by a falling tree.

Xinhua

Japanese PM visits Fukushima to check reconstruction

TOKYO, 25 March—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Fukushima Prefecture on Sunday to check the progress of reconstruction in areas damaged by the March 2011 quake and tsunami disasters, local media reported.

Abe stopped by Namie, a small town which was evacuated following the disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, and to which residents' access is now still restricted, said Kyodo News Agency.

Abe visited the town to

check its current state before the narrowing of the zone. It is Abe's fourth such tour in the quake-hit Tohoku region and the latest since he visited Iwate and Miyagi prefectures in February, according to reports.

Xinhua

New Zealand, Chile seek to strengthen links in education, tourism

WELLINGTON, 25 March—New Zealand and Chile will be seeking to strengthen ties in tourism, education and other sectors when Chilean Economy, Development and Tourism Minister Pablo Longueira visits New Zealand this week, the New Zealand government announced on Monday.

Longueira, who was invited to visit New Zealand by Prime Minister John Key during his Latin America trip earlier this month, would be accompanied by a 21-strong delegation, including business representatives, when he arrived on Monday for a four-day visit, said New Zealand

Economic Development Minister Steven Joyce. "Our relationship with Chile is thriving following the recent visit by the Prime Minister. There is a high level of co-operation in energy development, the environment, agriculture and education," Joyce said in a statement.—Xinhua



Wang Xiao takes a souvenir photo for his wife Hou Jin outside the McDonald's restaurant at Chang'an Market, where he tasted the American fast-food for the first time at the age of 11, in Beijing, capital of China, on 24 March, 2013. Opened in 1993 as the second outlet of the American fast-food giant in Beijing, the Chang'an Market McDonald's made indelible impressions on locals. Due to reconstruction and adjustment of the market, the outlet will discontinue its business on Sunday.—XINHUA

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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT – 009/UNDP HR/2013

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is seeking applications from dynamic and highly motivated Myanmar nationals for the following vacancy with UNDP, Myanmar.

Functional Title	Senior Field Coordinator	Area Office Coordinator	Monitoring and Reporting Analyst	Satellite Office Manager
Grade	NO-C	NO-B	SC-9	SC-7
Type of Contract	Fixed Term	Fixed Term	Service Contract	Service Contract
Duty Station	Yangon	Multiple duty station	Yangon	Multiple duty station

Senior Field Coordinator, Level NO-C

Responsibilities: Effective coordination, planning and implementation of field activities. Maintain the overall accountability for monitoring, reporting and evaluation from all field level activities. Engage in building sustainable partnership and cooperation. Ensure effective management, coordination and monitoring of UNDP supported Pillar 1, Local Governance Programme activities including early recovery and livelihoods development. Engage in staff capacity development, team building and knowledge sharing.

Qualifications and experience: Master's Degree in Rural Development, Regional Development Planning, Social Development, Economics, Management or related fields. A minimum of 5 years work experience with progressive professional responsibilities within the development field. Fluency in both spoken and written English is a pre-requisite of this role.

Area Office Coordinator, Level NO-B

Responsibilities: Ensure the development and implementation of program strategies; effective management of the Country Office programme; and quality control from formulation to implementation of the country programme. Work in close collaboration with the UNDP field coordination unit as well as UNDP program and operation specialists to facilitate the provision of high quality client services, knowledge building and management.

Qualifications and experience: Master's Degree in Public Administration, Economics, Political Sciences, Social Sciences or related field. A minimum of 2 years relevant experience at the national or international level including hands-on experience in working with government counterparts, undertaking monitoring and evaluation of projects. Fluency in both spoken and written English is a pre-requisite of this role.

Monitoring and Reporting Analyst, Level SC-9

Responsibilities: Ensure the management and coordination of all field level monitoring and reporting including the application of policies and strategies. Provide effective management and oversight for the facilitation of knowledge building and knowledge sharing in the area of monitoring and reporting. Implement a reporting framework for all field level operations. Provide technical expertise in the coordination of field level reporting to management including the administration, facilitation, knowledge building and knowledge sharing on monitoring and reporting practice. Be accountable for the compilation and finalization of drafts, quality assurance measures, and finalization of various reports from the field offices to the central level in a timely manner consistent with UNDP and donor requirements.

Qualifications and experience: Master's Degree in International Relations, Political Science, Economics or related social sciences. A minimum of 2 years work experience at the national or international level providing management advisory services in the design, monitoring and evaluation of development projects. Relevant local governance experience in monitoring and reporting on socio-economic issues and related policy matters. Experienced in the use of computers and office software packages, including handling of web based management systems. Fluency in both spoken and written English is a pre-requisite of this role; ability to learn and speak local languages an asset.

Satellite Office Manager, Level SC-7

Responsibilities: Ensure the development and implementation of UNDP program strategies. Provide high quality client services and facilitate knowledge building. Development and implementation of program strategies that achieve the key expected results of this role.

Qualifications and experience: Secondary Education; preferably with specialized certification in Accounting and Finance. University Degree in Business or Public Administration, Economics, Political or Social Sciences would be desirable, but it is not a requirement. A minimum of 7 years progressive work experience holding responsibilities for administrative and program management, at the national or international level. Experience in the use of computers and office software packages (MS Word, Excel, etc) and advanced knowledge of spreadsheet and database packages including web based management systems. Fluency in both spoken and written English is a pre-requisite of this role; ability to learn and speak local and national language of the duty station. Detailed Terms of References are posted on the bulletin board at No.6, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Candidates should clearly indicate which post they are applying for when submitting their application and completed UNDP Personal History (P-11) Form. Applications together with the P-11 form should be addressed to the Deputy Resident Representative (Operations) Attention: Human Resources Unit, No.6 Natmauk Road UNDP, Yangon or apply on-line through application.mm@undp.org

UNDP is an equal opportunity employer committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence. Only those candidates whose qualifications and experience meet the requirements of these roles will be contacted for subsequent interview/s.

Closing Date: 9 April 2013

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (033)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (033) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MOL(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV OSSIAN VOY NO (13006N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OSSIAN VOY NO (13006N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S T.S LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SPRING WIND VOY NO (8)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SPRING WIND VOY NO (8) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: FORTUNE SHIPPING & AGENCY PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV OCEAN FELICITY VOY NO (3)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OCEAN FELICITY VOY NO (3) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914



A vendor clean souvenirs while waiting for customers on a street in the Old City of Sanaa, Yemen, on 24 March, 2013. According to local media, Yemen's tourism sector suffered losses estimated at one billion US dollars following the 2011 crisis. Vendors in the Old City of Sanaa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, said the number of foreign tourists declined by at least 90 percent due to the 2011 unrest that severely undermines security in Yemen.—XINHUA

TRADE MARK CAUTION

SANOFI, a company organised and existing under the laws of France, of 54 rue La Boetie, 75008 Paris, France, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

CAPEZEN

Reg. No. 14914/2012

in respect of "Class 5: Pharmaceutical preparations."

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin

M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for SANOFI

P. O. Box 60, Yangon

mahinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm

Dated: 26 March 2013

Philippine

gov't assures safety of tourists visiting Boracay

BORACAY, (Philippines), 25 March—The Philippine government said on Monday that security measures are in place to ensure the safety of tourists who will be spending the Holy Week here.

For one, the Department of Tourism (DOT) said personnel from the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Philippine Coast Guard and the Department of Transportation and Communication have been deployed here to secure tourists who are expected to arrive in droves.

"The government is prepared to secure tourists who have started to arrive in Boracay in time for the long holiday," said Tim Tigar, officer of DOT-Boracay.

The Philippine government noted that the beaches of Boracay are favoured by local and foreign tourists especially during the Holy Week.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RANCAK VOY NO (707)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RANCAK VOY NO (707) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER

LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

ENTERTAINMENT

Lindsay Lohan to be treated for alcohol and drug abuse

LONDON, 25 March—Lindsay Lohan will reportedly be treated for alcohol and prescription drug addiction in rehab.

The Liz & Dick actress — who agreed to plead no contest to two misdemeanor charges in relation to a car accident last summer in return for 90 days treatment in a residential clinic — will undergo her sixth attempt at getting sober when she begins her court ordered stint in rehab and her treatment will focus on her “large” alcohol consumption and reliance on legal medications.

A source told RadarOnline.com: “Lindsay

will be treated for prescription drug and alcohol addiction during her stay.

“Lindsay’s prescription drugs of choice are Adderall and Xanax, and in addition, she consumes large amounts of alcohol — specifically, vodka.”

However, insiders are unsure how well the course of treatment will go as the 26-year-old star still doesn’t think she has a problem and only agreed to go to rehab to avoid jail.

The source added: “The main problem when it comes to Lindsay ever getting sober is her absolute denial that she has any substance abuse issues. Once again, she is

only going to rehab purely because it’s a slightly more attractive alternative than going to jail. Of course, there is hope that once Lindsay is undergoing treatment she will recognise that she does in fact have a problem — but given her history, it’s very doubtful.”

A spokesperson for the star — who also agreed to undergo 18 months of psychological counselling and 30 days of community service — said: “We do not comment on our clients’ personal lives.”

PTI



According to reports, Lindsay Lohan agreed to go to rehab to avoid jail.
PTI

Why Shah Rukh Khan received roses from Gulab Gang girls

Shah Rukh Khan has decided that his heroine’s name should appear before his on the credit roll of his upcoming films.—PTI



MUMBAI, 25 March—The industry thought it was a cool gesture on Shah Rukh Khan’s part to have his heroine’s name appear before his, on the credit roll

of his upcoming films.

And while we hear that the co-star of his upcoming film Chennai Express, Deepika Padukone is quite elated at the news,

sources tell us SRK also received a large bouquet of red roses from another team of impressed girls. The girls in question are part of the cast of Anub-

hav Sinha’s next film Gulab Gang based on a group of women outlaws.

A source says, “Mahie Gill, Tanishtha Chatterjee and the others are very gung-ho about the actor’s decision. Since their film too is based on a group of women, who took up arms to protest against domestic and social violence towards the fairer sex, they wanted to say thanks to SRK.”

So while the actor and Deepika were busy shooting at Wai, the ladies sent him flowers. A source close to Anubhav confirms the buzz and states, “Yes, the girls sent flowers to Shah Rukh.”

PTI

Suraj Sharma: I have a vague ambition of filmmaking

NEW DELHI, 25 March—He may have started his cinematic journey as an actor but Suraj Sharma says he is keen to follow his Life of Pi helmer Ang Lee into filmmaking.

Suraj was 17 when he was selected by Lee out of 3000 hopefuls to play Pi, a young Indian boy lost in the ocean for months with a Bengal tiger.

Suraj said.

The screening, incidentally, took place on his 20th birthday and Suraj says he cannot think of any other gift rather than a “special screening of his film”.

“The film is very close to my heart. It gave me a recognition worldwide. It helped me to realize my own dreams. I have never thought I will get such a start



Suraj Sharma made his debut in the film industry with Ang Lee’s Life of Pi.—PTI

He turned 20 yesterday and with the experience of making the mega movie behind him, Suraj says he feels old. “Life has changed completely after Life of Pi. I have changed completely as a person. I have become older and more aware about the world,” Suraj told PTI after attending a special screening of the movie, which was organized by Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in India (TECC) to celebrate its Oscar success.

“Finally, I have a vague ambition of filmmaking. It’s really interesting to see how things are going. It’s a new kind of beginning in many ways with many Bollywood and Hollywood projects in my hands. I am yet to put my signatures on them,”

in my career. There is nothing better than that when your hard work pays off at the end,” he said.

The first year Philosophy student at St Stephen’s, Suraj recalled his memories of being a part of grand Oscars night in Hollywood where Life of Pi won four trophies, including the Best Director statuette for Lee.

“I was screaming from the back with every win for our film. It was a great night. But the one, I really wanted to win is the Best director for Ang. When the Best director category was getting announced, everyone was numb and nervous. It took some seconds to sink in the fact that Ang really got the award. He deserved it and I was really happy,” he said.—PTI

Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart celebrate with Katy Perry

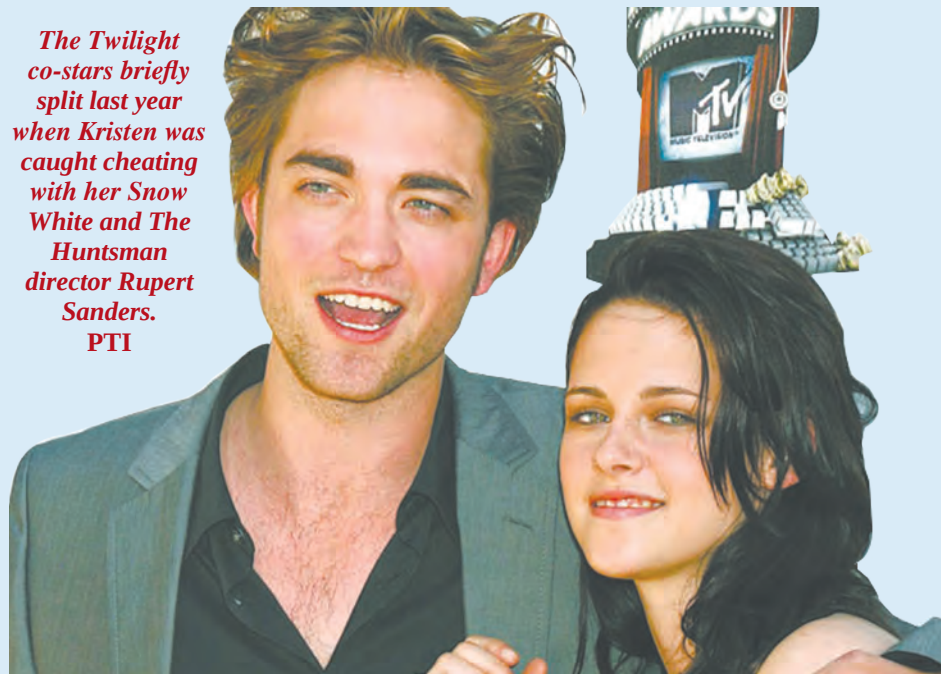
LOS ANGELES, 25 March—Twilight co-stars and real life lovers Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart were spotted dining out with Katy Perry to celebrate the singer’s assistant’s birthday.

In a short video posted on YouTube, Stewart, who is good friends with the birthday girl Tamra Natisin, was seen standing next to Pattinson, while Perry placed the cake and started singing “Happy Birthday”, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Perry seemed to be in a good mood considering she has just split with boyfriend John Mayer after a seven month romance.

The Twilight actors, who briefly split last summer after Stewart was caught cheating with mar-

The Twilight co-stars briefly split last year when Kristen was caught cheating with her Snow White and The Huntsman director Rupert Sanders.
PTI



ried film director Rupert Sanders, have been making the most of their time together by hitting the town

for outings.

News of the pair’s reunion became public on Tuesday at a karaoke bar in

Los Angeles, and a lucky fan even managed to get a photo with the duo.

PTI

SPORTS

Japan eye Brazil berth, Cahill calls for high tempo



Japan's players pose for a group picture before their international friendly soccer match against Canada in Doha on 22 March, 2013. REUTERS

AMMAN, 25 March—Asian champions Japan can become the first side to qualify for the 2014 World Cup with victory in Jordan on Tuesday, while South Korea, Australia and Uzbekistan are odds on to score home wins and clarify the crowded pool picture.

The Blue Samurai thrashed Jordan 6-0 at home in June, a result that has helped them establish an eight point lead over Australia, Iraq and Oman in Group B.

But Tuesday's clash in Amman will be a tougher prospect without the key duo of playmaker Keisuke

Honda and attack-minded fullback Yuto Nagatomo at a venue where Jordan were able to humble Australia in September.

A 2-1 friendly win over Canada in Qatar on Friday involved some sloppy errors by Asia's best side and the players know improvements are required to see off Jordan, who have bounced back well from their Saitama rout.

"If we play like we did in the first half against Canada then things could become very difficult for us," playmaker Shinji Kagawa said after the win over the North Americans.

Shinji Okazaki should

start after scoring the opener against Canada with the VfB Stuttgart forward demanding big improvements ahead of the decisive qualifier.

"It is good that we have got this game out of the way because we can't play like we did (against Canada). We allowed our opponents to create a good shape and we have to take a good look at ourselves about that," he said.

Japan might only need a draw to qualify should Australia and Oman draw in the earlier Group B clash in Sydney.

That result is a strong possibility as the duo, along

with Jordan and Iraq, have all taken points off each other in a number of defensive-minded, slow tempo clashes. The quartet have each scored only four goals in the group.

The Socceroos remain favourites, though, to grab the runners-up spot and the other Brazil berth from the pool as they have a game in hand on their rivals and host three of their remaining four matches.

New York Red Bull striker Tim Cahill is expected to lead the line and the former Everton player has called for a high-tempo display, something that was lacking in a drab 0-0 draw when the teams met in mug-gy Muscat in June.

"I know the international game can be a bit more relaxed, slow tempo (compared with club soccer), but this game has to be high tempo from us and we have to make sure we pressure them and make them feel unwelcome in our stadium," Cahill told reporters.

"They'll be under pressure to get a result, so they'll play very deep.—Reuters

England lose early wicket in marathon chase

AUCKLAND, 25 March—Alastair Cook and Jonathan Trott guided England to 45 for one at tea on the fourth day of the series-deciding third test against New Zealand on Monday as the tourists lost an early wicket in their chase for an improbable 481 runs for victory.

England captain Cook was on 19, having been dropped on one, and Trott was on 24 at the break after paceman Tim Southee struck early to have opener Nick Compton caught behind the wicket for two.

New Zealand skipper Brendon McCullum declared the hosts' second innings closed about 45 minutes after lunch on 241 for six, after Peter Fulton became the fourth New Zealand batsman to score a century in each innings of a test.

McCullum finished unbeaten on 67, his third half-century of

the series, when he declared after BJ Watling was well caught in the deep for 18.

The declaration ensured England would need to break the world record for the highest successful run chase to win the match and the series after the first two games ended in rain-affected draws.

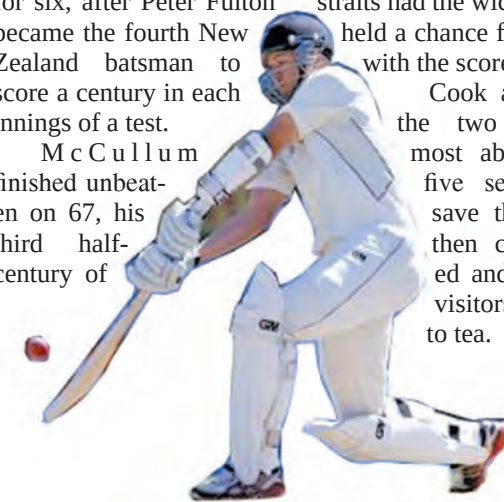
The highest fourth innings score to win a game was the 418 for seven that West Indies compiled against Australia in 2003.

Only one side has scored more than 300 to win a test at Eden Park.

England's chase began terribly when Compton was caught low by Watling, leaving the tourists 2-1, and could have been in dire straits had the wicketkeeper held a chance from Cook with the score on 10-1.

Cook and Trott, the two batsmen most able to bat five sessions to save the match, then consolidated and took the visitors through to tea.

Reuters



Peter Fulton of New Zealand hits a six against England on day four of their final cricket test at Eden Park in Auckland, on 25 March, 2013.—REUTERS

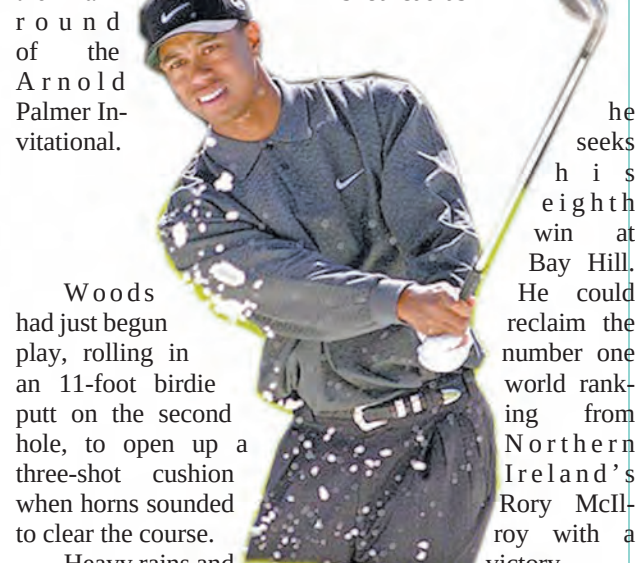
Storm halts play at Bay Hill as Woods bids for top spot

ORLANDO, (Florida), 25 March—Tiger Woods's bid to regain the world number one ranking was interrupted on Sunday when violent thunderstorms swept across the Bay Hill Club, the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

ping branches from trees and sending spectators running for cover.

The clubhouse and media centre lost power and there was no word when or if play would resume.

Woods entered the final round with a two-shot lead as



Heavy rains and strong winds followed, rip-

Reuters

Tiger Woods

Djokovic and Sharapova win at windy Miami

KEY BISCAIYNE, (Florida), 25 March—World number one Novak Djokovic and Russian Maria Sharapova shook off windy conditions to move into the fourth round of the Sony Open at Miami on Sunday.

Serb Djokovic posted a 6-2, 6-4 victory over India's Somdev Devvarman and Sharapova turned back fellow Russian Elena Vesnina 6-4, 6-2.

Djokovic's win set up a clash with German Tommy Haas, who beat Ukrainian Alexandr Dolgoplov 6-3, 6-2.

"It was very difficult to kind of get into a rhythm because you couldn't really serve at 100 percent," Djokovic, the two-time defending champion, told reporters.

"You had to go more for precision and put twice



Maria Sharapova of Russia hits a backhand to compatriot Elena Vesnina at the Sony Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida on 24 March, 2013. REUTERS

as much effort into the step adjustments because of the windy conditions. All in all, I'm just happy to get through the rough day."

The top-seeded Serb took 28 of his 31 first-serve points and faced just one break point in the 68-minute

victory.

Haas, seeded 15th, moved through to the fourth round for the first time since 2001. He hit 13 aces and saved seven of the eight break points against his serve.

"He's probably one of

the most experienced active players in the world now," Djokovic said of the German. "He can play equally well on any surface."

Spain's world number five David Ferrer outlasted Italian Fabio Fognini 6-1, 7-5 and Japan's Kei Nishikori, Ferrer's next opponent, beat Xavier Malisse of Belgium 6-2, 7-5.

World number two Sharapova, who is on an eight-match winning streak, fell behind 3-1 in the first set but won 11 of the next 14 games to advance in straight sets.

"It wasn't easy for the both of us with the heat and the wind," Sharapova said. "It was just one of those days where you know you might not be playing your best tennis. I certainly wasn't today."

Reuters

Hamilton pit stop gaffe has McLaren smiling

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 March—Lewis Hamilton returned to McLaren sooner than expected on Sunday when the Mercedes driver surprised mechanics by mistakenly pulling up outside his old team's garage during a Malaysian Grand Prix pit stop.

The 2008 Formula One world champion moved from McLaren, his backers

since boyhood, to Mercedes at the end of last season and appeared to have adjusted well to the change until he sprung his Sepang surprise.

"I don't know what happened. The teams look so similar," he told the BBC. "I have been stopping in that pit box for years. It's an easy mistake and hopefully one I won't make again."—Reuters



Mercedes Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain performs a pit stop during the Malaysian F1 Grand Prix at Sepang International Circuit outside Kuala Lumpur, on 24 March, 2013.—REUTERS

GENERAL

Germany should not become complacent, warns Loew

BERLIN, 25 March—Victory in Kazakhstan and a slip-up by Group C rivals Sweden in Friday's World Cup qualifiers have sent Germany five points clear but coach Joachim Loew has warned against complacency ahead of Tuesday's home game against the Kazakhs.

The Germans, 3-0 winners in Astana, are cruising towards 2014 World Cup qualification and even a suspension to Bastian Schweinsteiger looks unlikely to stop them from notching their fifth win in six group games.

While a meltdown similar to the one late last year that saw them spectacularly squander a 4-0 lead against Sweden to draw 4-4 is not expected in Nuremberg, Loew wants his players to firmly focus on what is at stake.

Germany are top of Group C with 13 points from five games, five ahead of Sweden, who drew 0-0 with Ireland and have a match in hand.

"If you score a victory away then there is the danger that you keep this in

and a side ranked 139 but he also saw the Kazakhs trying to battle back at 2-0



Germany's national soccer team head coach Joachim Loew attends a training session ahead of their 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match against Kazakhstan in Astana on 21 March, 2013.—REUTERS

your head for some time," Loew told reporters.

"We have to keep reminding the players that we are playing at home and we will only win if we have the right attitude and seriousness."

Loew is aware of the gap in quality between the world's second best team

down in the first game and having two clear chances as Germany took their foot off the gas. He will not have suspended Schweinsteiger to orchestrate their play but the Germans should be faster with the return of Marco Reus, who sat out his own one-game ban on Friday.

Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(26-3-13 09:30 am ~ 27-3-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Myanmar's Traditions and Culture "The Mystique of Shwedagon Pagoda"
- * News
- * Famous Vocalist Phyu Thi introduces her up coming Shwesaryan Pagoda Festival (Full moon day of Tabauing)
- * News
- * Today's Fashion Trend
- * e-sport
- * Charming Myanmar Silk Fabric
- * "Easily cooked & tasty Dishes" Minced Meat with Allium Tuberosum Bud
- * News
- * Topic on Journal "Sustainable Development of Wetlands"
- * "Let's Speak Myanmar" (Part-2) Mingalabar
- * Elephant Survey in Hukaung Tiger Reserve
- * News
- * The Beauty of Zwegabain and Livelihood of Kayin National
- * Myanmar National Races Cultural Dances (U Shwe Yoe & Daw Moe)
- * A Myanmar tapestry
- * Ayeyarwaddy Dreaming Images of Myanmar and Beyond Photo Exhibition
- * Myanmar Movies "Kamma"

Myanmar TV

(26-3-2013, Tuesday)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw</p> <p>7:30 am
2. Morning News</p> <p>7:40 am
3. International News</p> <p>7:45 am
4. People Talks</p> <p>8:00 am
5. Documentary</p> <p>8:25 am
6. Dammapusar Songs</p> <p>8:30 am
7. Songs in honour of (68th) Anniversary Armed Forced Day</p> <p>8:40 am
8. Myitta Pawana By Min Gun Sayadaw Phayagyi</p> <p>4:10 pm
9. Dance Of National Races</p> <p>4:15 pm
10. Dammapusar Songs</p> <p>4:30 pm
11. University Of Distance Education (TV Lecutures) -Second Year (English)</p> <p>4:45 pm
12. Joint Performace by State Orchestra and State Traditional</p> | <p>Orchestra
5:10 pm
13. Songs in honour of (68th) Anniversary Armed Forced Day</p> <p>5:20 pm
14. Documentary</p> <p>5:30 pm
15. SEA GAMES (Go For Gold) (VOVINAM)</p> <p>5:50 pm
16. People Talks</p> <p>6:00 pm
17. Evening News</p> <p>6:15 pm
18. Weather Report</p> <p>6:20 pm
19. Sing A Song</p> <p>6:50 pm
20. TV Drama Series</p> <p>7:00 pm
21. News</p> <p>7:10 pm
22. TV Drama Series</p> <p>8:00
23. News</p> <p>24. International News</p> <p>25. Weather Report</p> <p>26. Bakery World</p> <p>27. Teleplay</p> <p>10:00 pm
28. News</p> <p>29. India Drama Series</p> |
|---|--|

Albanian police seizes 195 kilos of marijuana in Gjirokaster

GJIROKASTER, 25 March — Police in the Albania's southern city of Gjirokaster have discovered and seized around 195 kilogram of marijuana during an anti-drug operation on Saturday.

Official police sources in the southern region said that the haul of marijuana was found hidden in the car of a 32-year old male, who was arrested on drug trafficking charges.

The drug was divided in 130 bags and was hidden under the chassis of the car with fake German number plates. The haul is believed to have originated in the village of Lazarat and it was to be smuggled to neighbouring Greece.

Official police sources said that preliminary investigation shows that the 32-year old suspect Genc Zymbyli had bought the haul of marijuana in the village of Lazarat few days ago.—Xinhua

Multiple mortars slam central Damascus, causing injuries

DAMASCUS, 25 March — Multiple mortar shells fired by Syrian armed rebels landed on Sunday near the state TV's office building and Sheraton Hotel in the heart of the capital Damascus, causing injuries and material damages, witnesses told Xinhua.

According to Xinhua reporter at the scene, thick clouds of smoke permeated the area and heavy security forces were deployed in the streets, cutting off all routes leading to the Umayyad Square, where the state TV's office building is located.

Witnesses told Xinhua that two mortars, allegedly launched from al-Qusour area in the south, landed in the main yard of Sheraton Hotel, where UN-Arab League Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi is staying.

They added another mortar slammed a street close to a highway, where two cars flipped over after they hit the sidewalk steered by startled drivers.

Meanwhile, another mortar landed in the al-Qusour area in southern Damascus, local media said.

The rebels have recently stepped up mortar attacks

in an attempt to destroy major military and governmental sites in Damascus.

Meanwhile, the pro-opposition Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the rebels bombarded the main hospital in the Damascus suburb of Harasta, which they claimed had been turned into a regular force centre.

The Observatory also said five family members, including two children, were killed by the government forces' bombardment on the town of Beit Sahm near the road to the airport of Damascus.—Xinhua



A student receives interview after taking the independent admission test of the South University of Science and Technology of China (SUSTC) in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province, on 24 March, 2013. The independent admission test of SUSTC was held simultaneously in 14 provinces on Sunday for the enrollment of 400 undergraduates in 2013.

XINHUA

Chinese sailor set to finish solo world sailing in nine days

QINGDAO, 25 March—Chinese sailor Guo Chuan is expected to return to Qingdao, east China, and finish his solo non-stop sailing around the world on 3 April, according to his supporting team on Monday.

"I am closer and closer to hometown, and it's the last stage I should be more careful of, especially the fishing nets," Guo said over a satellite phone.

Guo released off a drift bottle into the sea on 20

March, the day that he sailed into the South China Sea. There was a note in the bottle which stated Guo's contact way and the introduction of his world sailing. Guo had released off two same drift bottles before. The first one was put into the sea when he crossed the equator and sailed to the Southern Hemisphere on 4 December last year, and the second one was released on 19 January when he got around the Cape Horn.—Xinhua



Hong Kong action movie star Jackie Chan (1st R) attends a fund-raising performance with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib (2nd R) in Kuantan, Malaysia, on 23 March, 2013. The event was held here to raise money for the construction of a new Chinese school.—XINHUA

President U Thein Sein receives UNSG's Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar and party

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by UNSG's Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 9.30 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi and heads of departments. Mr Vijay Nambiar was accompanied by Resident Coordinator of UN Agencies Mr Ashok Nigam.

At the meeting, President U Thein Sein said that a mob violence was rife stemming from a personal brawl in Meiktila, adding foods and medicines were being provided to victims of the violence; that steps were being taken as soon as possible to take action against those who led the violence and got involved in it and to expose those who

flamed the conflict under the pretext of religion; and that measures are to be taken soonest for rehabilitation of the victims, and expressed thanks to the UNSG's special adviser for making a field trip right down to the scene to know prevailing situation.

Mr Vijay Nambiar for his part said that the international community has shown their interest in Myanmar's reform process which can be challenged by rivalry and hostility, adding it is known that Myanmar government and its people are striving for ensuring peace and stability; that the government alone could not restore peace and stability and it called for the public participation; that religious leaders should play a leading role in making the people know rule of law and peace; that although he was deeply touched by the plight of the local people, he was heartening to see that they show no hatred towards each other; that it was found that the two communities who have been living together for ages were eager to continue living



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and party pose for documentary photo with UNSG's Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar.—MNA

together; that some called for taking severe action against those who instigated and flamed the brawl; that religious and social leaders of both communities were expected to surmount what had happened and to move forward and expressed their concerns that the incident could tarnish the image

of the nation; that as both communities are desirous of living together as in the past, the UN would take concrete steps towards this end.

Afterwards, President U Thein Sein elaborated that the reform process covering political, economic, social, administrative sectors of the

new government during its two years term has seen both successes and challenges; that steps are to be taken to make the people know action to be taken according to the law in case of incident while striving for promotion of education and creation of job opportunities; that the government was committed

to the flourishing of democracy and to overcome obstacles and difficulties ahead in marching towards democracy; and he thanked the UN and Mr Vijay Nambiar for having the wishes to offer humanitarian aid based on understanding, sympathy and kindness.

MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Information Team

Press release (7/2013)

14th Waxing of Tabaung 1374 ME
25 March 2013

1. Government will be in earnest effort to control and address all forms of violence including instigations that lead to racial and religious tensions in the interest of the people in accord

2. with the Constitution and existing laws.
2. Homeless victims of violence, fire and riots will be provided with emergency accommodation and full safeguard.
3. With restoration of peace and stability, resettlement of victims will be carried out as soon as possible.
4. Cooperation with civil societies, private sectors and international organizations will be made to be able to supply humanitarian aid to victims.
5. Works to hold talks for rebuilding trust between

the grief-stricken human societies caused by conflicts and conduct workshops to be able to heal the emotional wounds of victims will be implemented.

6. Currently the government is making concerted efforts in democratic reform and development undertakings with added momentum. That's why people are urged to avoid acts of violence and religious extremism that could disrupt the reform process and development tasks.

Information Team

Mann Shwe Settaw Festival comes to full life

By A1 Soe (Kyemon)



Mann Shwe Settaw Buddha (the Buddha's Golden Footprint)

Pujaniya Festival started 12 February has picked up momentum with flocks of

pilgrims flooding into one of the most sacred Buddhist places in Minbu Township

in central Myanmar.

It is the longest pagoda festival in Myanmar, running through 17 April which coincides with the first day of Myanmar traditional New Year according to the lunar calendar. According to the oral history, the Buddha visited then Sunaparanda Kingdom (now Minbu District) at invitation of Mahapuna Arhat 20 years after attaining enlightenment. On the Buddha's return trip to Sawutti, the Buddha left one footprint near then Namanda River (now Mann creek) on request of

Nampada Serpent King and another on Thissavandha hilltop on request of Thissavandha Arhat who attained arhatship after hearing sermons from the Buddha. These footprints—now known as the Upper Footprint and the Lower Footprint— heavily decorated with gold flakes are put on display in festival period for public obeisance.

Local products ranging from clothes to Thanaka woods are available at souvenir shops. Forest Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry

has kept open a public awareness raising booth at the festival.

The faithful believe that taking bath in Mann creek could spell an end to all kinds of diseases. Another significant destinations—Myathalon Pagoda, the landmark of Minbu, and Kyaungdawya, literally the site of the monastery where the Buddha spent seven days on His visit to Minbu—are within a few miles from the festival ground.

Kyemon:

20-3-2013

Trs:HKA